

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the claimed present invention whereby the mount and handle are pivotably connected with a mutual frictional engagement therebetween, which enables pivoting of the handle with respect to the mount during operation, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 6, lines 1-7 and by the disclosure in Fig. 2. It is respectfully submitted that this recitation is clear and definite and in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112. And it is also respectfully submitted that this recitation does not contradict one of the intended objects mentioned at page 3 of the specification to prevent unintended shifting or pivoting of the mount relative to the handle during cleaning work. In this connection, it is respectfully pointed out that the mutual frictional engagement between the mount and the handle enables pivoting during operation as recited in amended claim 1, while at the same time preventing unintended shifting or pivoting during cleaning work.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment to claim 1 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1 and 4 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of previously cited USP 1,503,449 ("Bowen"). This rejection, however is respectfully traversed with respect to claim 1 as amended hereinabove.

As pointed out to the Examiner during the telephone conferences conducted on September 16 and 22, 2003, in the cleaning device of the claimed present invention, the handle and the mount are connected such that the handle is enabled to pivot with respect to the mount during operation. And it is respectfully submitted that this feature of the present invention is now clearly recited in amended claim 1 in a manner which is both fully supported by the disclosure in the specification and which does not contradict the object of preventing unintended shifting or pivoting.

By contrast, Bowen merely discloses a well known cleaning implement comprising a handle and a mount (i.e., brush bar 9) that is rigidly connected to the handle. Namely, as disclosed at page 1, lines 73-80 of Bowen:

"pin 8 being in register with one of the small holes 15, upon tightening nut 24 the brush bar [9] is rigidly clamped to the bracket [4]. It will further be noticed that the engagement of pin 8 and slot 15 serve to take up all torsion or side thrust and effectually prevent rotation of the brush bar on the bracket."

It is respectfully submitted that in Bowen the mount (i.e., brush bar 9) and handle are clearly not pivotably connected.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Bowen clearly does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in claim 1.

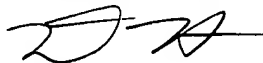
Although simply in structure, it is again respectfully submitted that the cleaning device of the claimed present invention patentably distinguishes over all of the prior art references of record, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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